FBI UNDERCOVER IN CHURCH CITED

Pro-Communist Allegations Checked

PHOENIX, Ariz. (AP) — A United Presbyterian official said Sunday the FBI planted undercover agents among employes of his church three years ago, apparently to check pro-communism allegations.

The Rev. Dr. Kenneth G. Neigh, head of his church's national missions board and a vice president of the National Council of Churches, said when he discovered the undercover agents working in the treasurer's office of the church's national headquarters in New York, he called the FBI in Washington.

An FBI spokesman apologized, said Dr. Neigh, and told him the investigation "was a mistake."

Dr. Neigh disclosed the episode in hitting back at a longtime critic of the major churches, the Rev. Carl McIntire, of Collingswood, N.J., a radio preacher who is organizing a "March for Victory" in Indochina rally on Oct. 3 in Washington.

The Rev. Mr. McIntire has often accused various prominent churchmen and Protestant denominations of promoting Communist interests, Dr. Neigh said.

"The time has come for clarifying relationships and challenging those who, like McIntire, have a ministry of dissention when the church and the world desperately need reconciliation and unity," Dr. Neigh said.

He said he assumed the FBI investigators were checking the procommunism allegations, adding that the accusations have been "refuted by every investigating group which pursued these claims," including the FBI.

'I can think of no other reason" for the investigation, he said.

With South Vietnam's Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky as an invited participant to the Oct. 3 rally, Dr. Neigh said: "The totally distorted hoax perpetrated upon the American public over the years by McMcIntire has now reached a climax.

"His invitation to Mr. Ky has created a quandary for the administration while producing additional publicity ... that cannot but reverberate damagingly on national unity and by jeopardizing the political system."